

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8830

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MUNICH

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 8708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, UR

SUBJ: LEADERSHIP NOTES

1. KOSYGIN. CANADIAN EMBASSY TELLS US THAT KOSYGIN LOOKED GOOD AND DID A VERY IMPRESSIVE JOB IN HIS TALKS WITH ALBERTA PRIME MINISTER LOUGHEED. AMBASSADOR FORD, WHO IS PROBABLY THE MOST EXPERIENCED LEADERSHIP WATHCHER AMONG WESTERN DIPLOMATS HERE, SAID THAT KOSYGIN LOOKED EVERY BIT AS GOOD AS DURING HIS VISIT TO CANADA IN 1971. HE
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WAS ALERT, BRIGHT, WELL BRIEFED AND ATTENTIVE. FORD WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH HIS SPRITELINESS AND GENERAL VIGOR AND ASTONISHED AT HIS GRASP BOTH OF BROAD ISSUES AND OF SPECIFIC DETAILS CONCERNING SOVIET-CANADIAN RELATIONS. THE LARGE SPOT ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF HIS FACE HAS COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED. THE CANADIANS TELL US THAT HE LOOKED EVERY BIT AS

GOOD AS RSFSR PRIME MINISTER AND POLITBURO CANDIDATE
MEMBER SOLOMENTSEV WHO IS TEN YEARS HIS JUNIOR.

2. SUSLOV - A POSSIBLE BUILD-UP? SEVERAL RECENT
EXAMPLES OF WHAT MAY BE INTENDED AS A BUILD-UP FOR
SUSLOV STRIKES AS INTERESTING. IT WAS SUSLOV WHO
FORMALLY NOMINATED BREZHNEV AS CHAIRMAN OF THE PRESIDUM OF
THE SUPREME SOVIET ON JUNE 16. HIS NOMINATING
SPEECH WAS CARRIED IN FULL ON PAGE 1 OF PRAVDA.
THE MOSCOW MAY DAY PARADE HAD ONE FLOAT DEPICTING
AND ARRIVAL CEREMONY IN WHICH SUSLOV WAS SHOWN AHEAD
OF BREZHNEV. HIS PICTURE SEEMED LARGER THAN BREZH-
NEV'S. THE AUSTRIAN DCM, WHO SAW THE MAY DAY PARADE
IN BUKHARA, TELLS US THAT HE OBSERVED SUSLOV'S
PORTRAIT CARRIED IMMEDIATELY BEHIND LENIN'S AND
AHEAD OF BREZHNEV'S BOTH IN THE REHEARSAL FOR THE
PARADE AND THE PARADE ITSELF. JUNE 9 PRAVDA CARRIED
A PICTURE OF CPUSA LEADER HALL MEETING WITH THE
KREMLIN LEADERSHIP. IT LOOKS AS THOUGH HALL IS
SEATED OPPOSITE SUSLOV RATHER THAN BREZHNEV AND WE
NOTE THAT SUSLOV AND HALL DO NOT HAVE PAPERS IN
FRONT OF THEM WHILE BREZHNEV AND PONOMAREV DO. SUSLOV
SEEMS TO DOMINATE THIS PHOTO.

3. SHCHERBITSKIY. KIEV ADVANCE PARTY REPORTS THAT
THERE ARE RUMORS GOING AROUND KIEV THAT SHCHERBITSKIY
MAY COME TO MOSCOW TO REPLACE KOSYGIN AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. ACCORDING TO THE YUGOSLAV
CONSUL GENERAL IN KIEV, THE TIMING OF SHCHERBIT-
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SKIY'S MOVE TO THE CENTER IS UNCLEAR BUT SHOULD HAPPEN
RELATIVELY SOON. HE REFERS TO A VERY STRONG RELATION-
SHIP THROUGH THE "DNEPROPETROVSK MAFIA" BETWEEN
BREZHNEV AND SHCHERBITSKIY. THE YUGOSLAV ALSO
ADDUCES AS EVIDENCE OF SHCHERBITSKIY HAVING ADVANCE
KNOWLEDGE OF PODGORNYY'S FALL, HIS CRITICISM OF
THE KHARKOV SECTION OF THE UKRAINIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
IN A SPEECH IN MAY. WE HAVE RECENTLY AGAIN HEARD A
RUMOR IN MOSCOW THAT SHCHERBITSKIY WILL MOVE TO THE
CENTER, BUT AS FIRST DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE SUPREME
SOVIET IN CONNECTION WITH THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW
CONSTITUTION.
TOON

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